

Applicants : Dirk Lichtblau et al.
Serial No. : 10/615,346
Filed : July 7, 2003
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REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have canceled all previously pending claims and added new claims 72-98. Accordingly claims 72-98 are pending in the subject application.

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have also amended the specification on page 1 to insert the Patent Number which issued from U.S. Serial No. 10/194,089. Applicants maintain that the amendments made hereinabove do not raise any issue of new matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment.

Support for new claim 72 may be found *inter alia*, on page 11, line 16, and on page 12, lines 32-34 and Figure 7B.

Support for new claim 73 may be found *inter alia*, on Figure 7B.

Support for new claim 74 may be found *inter alia*, on page 11, line 16, and Figure 7A.

Support for new claim 75 may be found *inter alia*, on Figure 7A.

Support for new claim 76 may be found *inter alia*, on page 11, line 16, and Figure 7C.

Support for new claim 77 may be found *inter alia*, on Figure 7C.

Support for new claims 78-98 may be found *inter alia*, on Figure 7A-7C and original claims 1-21.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R.

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§1.56, applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following documents which are listed on Form PTO-1449 (**Exhibit A**) and are also listed below. Copies of the document listed below as item 1 is enclosed as (**Exhibit 1**).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3) before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Thus, this Information Disclosure Statement should be entered and considered.

1. U.S. Patent No. 6,590,109, issued July 8, 2003, Lichtblau et al. (**Exhibit 1**).

This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 10/194,089, filed July 11, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,590,109, issued July 8, 2003, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/903,049, filed July 11, 2001.

Applicants request that the Examiner review the reference and make it of record in the subject application.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicant's undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

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No fee is deemed necessary in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary J. Gershik

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Gary J. Gershik 12/2/03
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